A FINE NAVAL MODEL.

SOMETHING TO SHOW WESTERN PEOPLE AT OMAHA WHAT A DRYDOCK IS.

Washington, July 16.—There has just been finished at the Washington Navy Yard and shipped to the Omaha Exposition as part of the Navy Department exhibit at that place a model which is probably unique. The pressing need for more drydocks in order to take proper care of the ships of the Navy, and the ignorance of the people away from the seacoast of what a drydock was and its functions, led Lieutenant McCormick, who had charge of the exhibit, to suggest to Chief Naval Constructor Hichborn the construction of a working model of such a dock, believing that it would prove a most interesting feature, and it was built last winter. It consists of an active working model on a scale of one-quarter of an inch to the foot, or one-forty-eighth of the full size. The model is constructed mostly of wood, but the inside is lined with brass plates brazed together in order to make it water tight. It is an exact reproduction on that scale of the Simpson timber drydocks, which are to be built at the Portsmouth, Philadelphia and Mare Island Navy yards, and in size and general dimensions of the new drydock at the Boston Navy Yard, which latter, however, is to be built of concrete.

These docks will be 700 feet long on the coping head to the outer gate sill; 162 feet 6 inches wide on top, 71 feet wide on the bottom, 75 feet wide at the entrance on the bottom, 120 feet wide at the entrance on top, 38 feet deep to the working floor, and the top of 3-foot keel blocks will be 30 feet below the mean high-water line.

The model has been prepared in great detail so that the model ship which accompanies it can be docked and undocked just as the actual ship would be. A large basin is constructed outside the entrance in which the model ship will be floated, and a complete system of piping and valves is provided so that it can be flooded, allowing the model ship to enter, and then drained, leaving her dry on the blocks. A railing surrounds the three land sides, on which is a working model of a powerful travelling crane, used for handling heavy weights (forty tons being the capacity), which may need to be taken aboard of or removed from a ship in the dock.

The ship model, which is part of the exhibit, is an accurate reproduction on the same scale of the battle-ships Illinois, Alabama and Wisconsin, which are being built at Newport News, Cramp's shipyard, in Philadelphia, and the Union Iron Works, at San Francisco, respectively. These ships are 373 feet 9 inches long over all, 368 feet long on the water-line, 72 feet 5 inches wide, and 23 feet 6 inches draught of water, with a normal displacement of 11,525 tons, and 10,000 indicated horse-power, giving an estimated speed of sixteen knots per hour. Their total coal capacity is 1,200 tons. They carry four 13-inch guns in turrets 13 inches thick, and fourteen 6-inch rapid-fire guns behind casemates of 6-inch armor. The side armor extends from the stem 278 feet aft, and is 16½ inches thick, tapered at the forward end to 4 inches. The conning tower is 10 inches thick, and the armor deck 2¾ inches thick amidships and 5 inches thick at the ends of the ship. The vessels also carry a secondary battery of sixteen 6-pounder rapid-fire guns, four 1-pounder rapid-fire guns, one Gatling and one field gun.

MUSK AND RHUBARB FROM THIBET.

From The Manufacturer.

In return for the tea and other articles sent into Thibet through the Mahometan representative of the Thibetan trade guilds, the natives send back a long list of articles, including musk, rhubarb, wool, skins of various kinds, precious stones, medicines and a coarse grade of unbleached silken fabric.

Musk, which forms an important part of Thibetan outward trade, is a secretion of a small deer (Cervus moschus). This animal occurs throughout Eastern Thibet, but the largest herds are said to roam over the plains near the Koko Nor. A great deal of musk passes out to North China. The consumption in Szu-Chuan is considerable, and there is no article more easily smuggled. A single "pod" rarely contains more than one-third of an ounce of musk. The supply is less than it might be if the Thibetans had sporting rifles or if the dangers and difficulties of the chase were not such as to prevent Chinese merchants from hunting the deer.

Good musk, which is recognized by its rich brown color and intensely pungent odor, is bought for ten to twelve times its weight in silver on the frontier. In Chung-King it sells for as much as eighteen times its weight in silver. The musk that goes to Shanghai is adulterated with grains of dyed sand and other extraneous matter to the extent, it is said, of 50 per cent. A few grains of good musk will perfume a whole room; musk, however, is used not only as a perfume, but also as a medicine, and it is placed among clothing and furs as a preventive against moths.

It is said that practically all the musk which passes through Ta-Chien-Lu is adulterated by the Thibetans before it reaches that market by means of blood and liver. The usual test for ascertaining the purity of musk is running a thread rubbed with garlic through the pod. If no odor of garlic remains the perfume is held to be sufficiently pure.

Another important article of export from Thibet is rhubarb. This plant grows abundantly in many parts of the country, and the supply is said to be in excess of the demand. Great quantities are grown on the hills about Ta-Chien-Lu, but the natives, in order to dispose of it rapidly, dry it by artificial heat and thus injure its quality. This drug is, from the point of view of the civilized natives, the most useful of the Thibetan medicines. The best quality grows at an altitude of above nine thousand feet, and the roots are brought down in the rough state by the tribes or by the Chinese traders in Thibet. The large roots are trimmed or chopped into rough square lumps; in the Ta-Chien-Lu district, owing to the dampness of the climate, the roots have to be carefully dried, and are perforated to prevent mildew, which is the great enemy of the Chinese drug merchant. On arrival at Chung-King the lumps of rhubarb are again trimmed into small, square pieces, and after being dried are packed for shanghai, where an equal weight is worth five times its value on the frontier.

MISS FANNIE WARD.
As Mrs. Tudway, in "Lord and Lady Algy," Comedy Theatre, London.

AMERICAN BEAUTY IN LONDON.

SOME THEATRICAL REFLECTIONS WITHOUT A MORAL.

The procession of American girls to the London theatres is uninterrupted. It is not always easy to see why an actress who has led a quiet life in America should all at once make such a stir in London. Are American audiences more discriminating than English, or are English audiences more appreciative than American, or do London audiences like these American girls just because they are American? That might be the explanation just at the present moment, when American things seem to predominate so largely at the London theatres. The latest in the line is Miss Fanny Ward, who is now playing at the Comedy Theatre in "Lord and Lady Algy." She was seen here in two or three plays a few years ago, and she gained no especial reputation except that of being a decidedly pretty girl. She was connected with one of the most daring press-agent diamond robberies that ever took place in this city, but even that did not make her famous. But now the London and Paris papers are printing her picture, so that settles the matter.

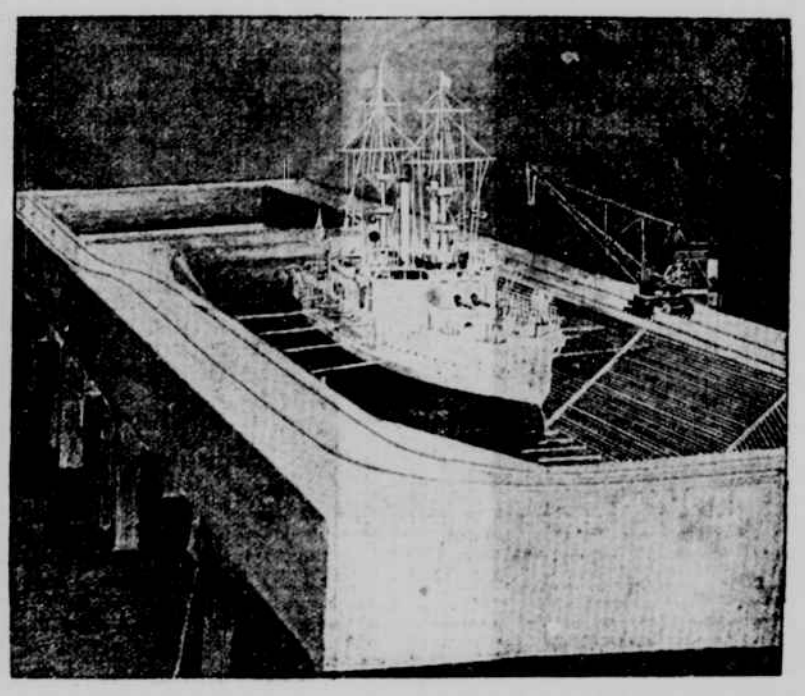
SEA WATER AS MEDICINE.

From The Washington Star.

When a bather at Atlantic City the other day accidentally swallowed a big gulp of sea water and then rushed off to get a drink of whiskey to take the taste out of his mouth a successful medical practitioner who had witnessed the performance, turned to a writer for "The Star" and said:

"That man is either a greenhorn or a fool. Otherwise on such occasion he would have taken merely a sip or two of lemonade and allowed the sea water to do its work. As a matter of fact, one of the most beneficial features of a sea bath is the salt water inadvertently swallowed by bathers. It is a wonderful tonic for the liver, stomach and kidneys. In many cases it will cure biliousness when all drug preparations have failed. It is peculiarly effective in ordinary cases of indigestion, disordered stomach and insomnia, and has been known to produce excellent results in many cases of dyspepsia.

"Clean sea water, such as is to be had at any of our numerous fashionable seaside resorts, is full of tonic and sedative properties. It won't hurt anybody. Indeed, two or three big swallows of it would be a positive benefit to nine bathers out of ten. It is not, of course, a palatable or tempting dose to take, but neither is quinine or calomel. You seldom, if ever, see an old sailor who is bilious or dyspeptic, or a victim to insomnia, and why? For the reason that an ocean of good medicine spreads all about his sky and he doses himself copiously with it whenever his physical mechanism becomes the least bit deranged."



MODEL OF A SIMPSON TIMBER DRYDOCK.
To form a part of the Navy Department exhibit at Omaha.

GUNGA DIN'S FAILING.

HE IS FAITHFUL, BUT HIS WATER-BOTTLE IS DIRTY AND BREEDS CHOLERA.

From The Hospital.

The principles of hygiene are no doubt the same whether in the East or in the West, but the details and the character of the difficulties to be overcome differ greatly according to the country, and especially according be the people with whom we have to deal. This is strikingly brought home to us by the fact that only now are we attempting in the East to deal with a matter which, to Western views, would seem to touch the very foundations of sanitary science, namely, the old and world-wide practice of carrying water in skins. The problem of water supply in the West hinges principally on the purity of the source from which the water is derived, and we are apt to take for granted that when we once have got the water its distribution is a mere matter of taps and pipes. In India, however, it is otherwise, for there they are only just beginning to escape from ancient methods. Even where pipe water has been laid on by municipalities it is often carried to the houses in mussacks—the old leathern bottles which were in use before history began—so that the chances of pollution during distribution are quite as important as those arising from impurity of source.

In some of the stations in India the Government is getting rid of this old dirty method, so far as the troops are concerned, by laying pipes into the kitchens in the cantonments, and we may fairly hope that this measure will have the effect of lessening the typhoid fever which is such a curse to our troops in India. We must not, however, be too sanguine, for the habits of the natives are such as sometimes to defy the efforts of the sanitarian. Still, the native does after all tend to do what comes the easiest, and if the water is brought actually into the kitchen pipes, it is to be presumed that he will use it, although the average sweeper will generally somehow find a way for defiling even the purest and the cleanest things. In regard to mussacks, and their influence in spreading disease, our readers will remember the observations made a few years ago by Mr. Hankin as to their liability to become infected with cholera bacilli, and to go on imparting their infection to successive charges of water.

The bheestie, although employed for the special purpose of bringing water from a reputedly pure source, will never carry it further that he can help, and thus it happens that unless he is well looked after he will now and again fill his mussack at the nearest tank, however polluted it may be, and once the mussack is infected, and the bacilli have taken root in its slimy interior, it will infect all the water which is put into it, however pure the source may be from which it comes. Hence the elimination of the mussack is a great step toward the prevention of the water-borne diseases from which India suffers. Again, however, we say we must not be too sanguine, for it is not the mussack itself that does the harm, but the native who misuses it, and the native is always with us—good, faithful fellow in his way, but steeped to the eyes in prejudice, and bad to move along sanitary lines. The native cook, with his peculiarly dirty ways, is responsible for much, and the fact that the cleaning of the cookhouse is left to a sweeper is answerable perhaps for more, so that while the introduction of the pure tap-water into the kitchens is a great thing, the difficulties arising from native habits still remain. In the article on "Water-Borne Diseases" in "The Twentieth Century Practice of Medicine," the following remarks appear in regard to cholera: "The phrase 'water-borne,' then, as applied to cholera, does not refer merely to the infection of great water supplies giving rise to vast epidemics, but has to do with cups and plates and cooking utensils, and the water in which they are washed; with salads and vegetables, and the water they are irrigated with in the garden and rinsed with in the kitchen; and with the personal cleanliness of all who are concerned in the preparation, storing and distribution of food or drink. In this sense nearly all cholera, at one part or another of its course from man to man, is water-borne."

What applies to cholera applies equally to typhoid fever. But when we use the term in this wide sense we see clearly that the rôle of hygiene in regard to water supply, far from ending at the tap, is then only just beginning. The abolition of the mussack would be a step in the right direction, but even that is still far off, while the education of the native involves a multitude of steps, each of which is more difficult than the laying of many pipes into scores of kitchens.

WHY GRANT ATTACKED.

From The Detroit Free Press.

"A good general never overlooks a point in the game," said an ex-Army officer who grieves because time has ruled him out of the service. "Nothing escapes him, and that should be remembered by these curbstone and corner grocery strategists who gather a little surface information and then howl because campaigns are not carried on in accordance with their plans.

"Apropos to this, I recall what seemed a little thing that happened before we attacked Fort Donelson, and yet there is no measuring the effect it may have had upon history. General Grant called a council of war to consider whether they should attack at once or give the troops a few days' rest. The other officers favored a rest, while Grant smoked and gave no opinion.

"'There was a deserter brought in this morning,' the General finally said. 'Let us see him and hear what he has to say.'

"The first thing Grant did when the fellow came in was to open up his knapsack. 'Where are you from?' the General then asked.

"'Fort Donelson.'

"'You have six days' rations, I see. When were they served?'

"'Yesterday morning, sir.'

"'Were the same rations served to all the troops?'

"'Yes, sir.'

"'Gentlemen,' said Grant, 'troops do not have six days' rations served out to them in a fort if they mean to stay there. These men mean to retreat, not to fight. We will attack at once.'"

WHY THEY PARTED.

From The Cincinnati Enquirer.

"We have parted," said the girl with the high brow.

"You don't mean it?"

"Yes; it had to be. He developed a flippancy I had never before suspected. He spoke of—oh, er—the author of 'Quo Vadis' as 'Snickelfritz.'"